

a.) Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs starting at page 124, line 12 and ending at page 125, line 14 to read as follows.

The above-identified reagent for the determination (3 mL) was added to quartz cells and 0.05 mL of each of 8 freshly prepared reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 respectively were added. After warming at 37°C for 5 minutes, 0.1 mL of a substrate solution for the determination was added to the reaction solution and the mixture was warmed at 37°C. Absorbance at 500 nm of each of the reaction solutions after 5 minutes and 6 minutes after the addition of the substrate solution for the determination was measured. Based on both absorbances, change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm for each of reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 was calculated. In the meanwhile, the same method was conducted using pure water instead of each of reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 and change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm for pure water was calculated. The change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm in pure water was subtracted from the change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm for each of reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 and the calculated value (~~$\Delta\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$~~) ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) was used as an index for stabilization of cholesterol esterase.

A series of the same operations was conducted for the determination using each of the reagents where each of reagent having the compositions 1 to 8 was stored at 40°C for 2 days and using each of the reagents where each of reagent having the compositions 1 to 8 was stored at 40°C for 5 days instead of using each of freshly prepared reagents having compositions 1 to 8 and change in the absorbance (~~$\Delta\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$~~) ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) for each reagent was calculated.

Please amend the paragraphs starting at page 125, line 25 and ending at page 127, line 2 to read as follows.

The above-identified reagent for the determination (3 mL) was added to quartz cells and 0.05 mL of each of the solution, prepared by 6-fold dilution with pure water of each of 8 freshly prepared reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 was added thereto. After warming at 37°C for 5 minutes, 0.1 mL of a substrate solution for the determination was added to the reaction solution and the mixture was warmed at 37°C. Absorbance at 500 nm of each of the reaction solutions after 5 minutes and 6 minutes after the addition of the substrate solution for the determination was measured. Based on both absorbances, change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm for each of reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 was calculated. In the meanwhile, the same method was conducted using pure water instead of each of reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 and change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm for pure water was calculated. The change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm for pure water was subtracted from the change in absorbance per minute ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) at 500 nm for each of reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 and the calculated value (~~$\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$~~) ($\Delta\text{Abs}/\text{min}$) was used as an index for stabilization of cholesterol oxidase.

A series of the same operations was conducted for the determination using each of the reagents where each reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 was stored at 40°C for 2 days and using each of the reagents where each reagent having Compositions 1 to 8 was stored at 40°C for 5 days instead of using each of the freshly prepared reagents having

Compositions 1 to 8 and change in the absorbance (~~$\Delta\Delta\text{Abs/min}$~~) ($\Delta\text{Abs/min}$) for each reagent was calculated.